

high level of gun industry presence and weak gun laws will continue to serve as major suppliers for gunrunners who traffic guns to states with tougher gun laws—states like Michigan. We must close the loopholes in our national framework for firearms distribution by among other things closing the gun show loophole.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE SHANIN FAMILY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the 20th century story of the Shanin Family portrays the success of immigrants in America and the success of America itself.

The naturalization papers of Freda Mermovich Shanin show that she traveled from Lugansk, Russia and arrived at Ellis Island on October 31, 1906, with her two children, Lilli and Max, enroute to joining her husband, Mordecai Shanin, in St. Joe, MO. The Shanin Family grew with the addition of five more children: Annie, Louie, Rose, Albert, and Margaret. Mordecai Shanin struggled to earn a living with a variety of occupations including selling Singer sewing machines.

Lilli Shanin, later to become my mother, told me about her father dying in her arms from a heart attack in 1916 on the backstairs of the Shanin home at 922 South Ninth Street. My grandmother, Bubbie Freda, told me she was left a widow with seven children and seven dollars. Deeply religious, proud and independent, Freda Shanin raised her children with the help of Lilli, who left school to work in a tablet factory, and the other siblings pitching in when they became old enough to contribute to the family's support.

In 1917 Freda Shanin met a young immigrant, Harry Specter, who was buying dry goods and blankets at the wholesale house for sales in his travels to farms in Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri. Harry Specter asked Freda Shanin if she had a daughter. "Yes I do" said the protective mother, "But she's too young for you."

Harry Specter courted Lilli Shanin, won her heart, went off to World War I, was wounded in the Argonne Forest, and returned in uniform to St. Joe to marry the beautiful 19-year-old redhead in her resplendent white gown carrying a large bouquet of roses. That union produced Morton, Hilda, Shirley, and ARLEN SPECTER, who in turn brought Mordecai and Freda Shanin 10 great grandchildren, 25 great-great grandchildren and 6 great-great-great grandchildren.

The three sons, Max, Louie, and Albert grew up in hard times in St. Joe with Albert, who added a granddaughter to the family tree, becoming a prosperous pharmacy owner who spent much of his time and drugstore medicines devoted to his ailing mother. Annie, who wrote a book of Hebrew poetry in 1945, married a distinguished chemist, Dr. Morton Kleiman, and they in turn had Dr. Adina Kleiman, a noted psychologist, and Dr. Jay Kleiman, an

eminent cardiologist, who added two more great grandchildren to the Shanin family. Margaret "Mashie" Shanin married handsome Leslie Hoffman, who brought a truckload of watermelons from the family produce business in Waco, TX, to St. Joe. Mashie added to the family tree with four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Rose Shanin left St. Joe at the age of 18 to live with her sister, Lilli, in Wichita, where Rose became a high-powered executive secretary for the Beyer Grain Company. In 1930, at my birth, Tante Rose intervened to save me from the name "Abraham" with the suggested "Arlen" after the famous movie star, Richard Arlen. Rose would later start my brother Morton and me in the development of our work ethics as messengers riding our bicycles all over Wichita delivering bills of lading for Beyer and other grain companies. Rose married Julius Isenberg and added a daughter and son to the growing family tree.

Judaism has continued to be the mainstay of the Shanin Family with many, albeit not all, maintaining strictly kosher homes, with a few emigrants to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv to strengthen the State of Israel. The 70 descendants of Mordecai and Freda Shanin have contributed to the values, prosperity, and success of the United States. Interspersed in the family tree are Ph.Ds, LL.Ds, MDs, a Federal judge, businesspeople, professionals, and elected public officials.

Today, members of the Shanin Family have assembled in Washington for a Shanin Family reunion led by the patriarchs of the family, Annie Kleiman and Rose Isenberg and Joyce Specter, who were privileged to meet with the President today. The entire family visited the White House, the Senate, the Washington Monument, the Jefferson Memorial, the Lincoln Monument, President Kennedy's gravesite, and the Secret Service headquarters.

America is the spectacular story of immigrants who have come in search of freedom and opportunity who have contributed so much. The Shanin Family is typical of the great contributions by immigrants, who, along with native Americans, have made the United States the greatest country in the history of the world.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wanted to say this to the Senator from Pennsylvania. Not only is he proud of his family, but certainly they should be proud of him. He has rendered great service to the State of Pennsylvania and to this country. Even though we are in a real quandary for time here, every word he said I appreciate very much. I understand the pride he expresses in his family, as they should in him.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I believe it is probably the case, although we are not supposed to mention such things on the floor, that the family may be present. I welcome them and congratulate the Senator on such a fine progeny.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank my colleagues for their very kind remarks.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I join my colleagues and say to the Senator's family what pride they should take in you. I know of no Senator that has had a more positive affect on the work of the Senator than Senator SPECTER. I am proud of him.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank my colleagues from Delaware for those very generous comments.

#### FUNDING FOR THE ARTS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I would like to briefly express my full support for the funding contained in the fiscal year 2001 Interior Appropriations bill for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Yesterday, I joined 72 of my Senate colleagues—Republicans and Democrats alike—in defeating an effort to cut the NEA's budget. The funding level approved in the Senate version of the Interior Appropriations bill is \$7 million above that approved by the House of Representatives and represents a modest increase from last year's budget.

Opponents of the NEA claim that it simply subsidizes a small number of wealthy people in the big cities. The truth is that the NEA supports public-private art projects that benefit millions of people across our country; young and old, rich and poor, rural and urban. One needs to simply look at the NEA's role in South Dakota to see how a small percentage of our tax dollars improve the lives of entire communities in our state.

Last year, South Dakota received over \$630,000 in grants from the NEA. That equates to nearly one dollar for every resident of our state. NEA grants are coordinated by the South Dakota Arts Council, and this successful federal-local-private relationship supports programs like the L. Frank Baum Oz Festival in Aberdeen. NEA funds were instrumental in getting the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Sciences constructed in Sioux Falls. In fact, the Black Hills Community Theatre and the Black Hills Symphony Orchestra provide year-long entertainment as a direct result of NEA funds. Residents of Brookings benefitted from NEA funding of the Brookings Chamber Music Society, the SDSU-Civic Symphony, and the Prairie Repertory Theatre. Restoration of the Historic Homestake Opera House in Lead has been supported through the NEA. In Pierre, NEA funds have allowed the Capital City Children's Chorus to entertain area residents. Vermillion's historic Shrine to Music Museum receives NEA support for its annual programs, and Watertown's Symphony Orchestra and Town Players theater group also received NEA funds this past year. I just returned from attending a performance of "Spiritscapes", a South Dakota cantata, at the Sioux Falls Washington Pavilion which was financed in part by the NEA.